

Position Description

1700 Hour AmeriCorps Member

Giant Springs State Park, Great Falls



Term of service: January 12, 2015 – November 13, 2015

Service schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,715 hours over a 44 week term, averaging 41 hours per week with 80 hours of holiday, vacation or sick time

Position Summary:

Giant Springs State Park is a wonderful asset to the community of Great Falls; it provides a multitude of family fun recreational opportunities to include: fishing, hiking, biking, picnicking, bird watching and historical interpretation. The State Park also hosts visitors from near and afar. They visit the park for the historical presence of Lewis & Clark, the amazing natural Giant Spring, the State Fish Hatchery and the beautiful scenery. The State Park is loved and cherished by more than 300,000 visitors a year.

The AmeriCorps member will play an integral role in Giant Springs State Park. They will design and implement special events, such as movies in the park, concerts and national outdoor programs. The member will also oversee educational programs in the park for school programs and park visitors. They will coordinate land management projects to include by performing trail maintenance with trail working groups. The member will expand the Park's volunteer program; recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers. They will also assist with community outreach which will include developing press releases, conducting TV interviews and attending community events/meetings.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members perform capacity building activities. Their service revolves around the program goals listed below in order to ensure that they do not displace workers or take part in any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps members *will* likely participate in activities that involve recurring contact with vulnerable populations.

Member will contribute to the following program goals:

- Improve park land
- Expand educational and interpretive programs
- Increase volunteer capacity*
- Enhance outreach and awareness of state parks
- Participate in service activities including National Days of Service**
- Respond to disasters, when called upon to do so by the program



Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Coordinate, design and implement educational and interpretation programs for school groups and park visitors, such as Fur, Water, Historical and Environmental talks.
- Assist in developing an Equine program for the North Shore Trail System to include: signage, permit system, trail designation, user groups, rules and regulations, parking areas and sections of trails that would accommodate the use.
- Coordinate, design and implement multiple special events throughout the summer, such as concerts, educational speakers, and other community events.
- Enhance and expand community outreach for Giant Springs State Park with TV and radio interviews, booths at community events, and contact with clubs in the area.
- Expand local marketing for Giant Springs State Park trail system through advertising the park with TV, newspaper, internet and local clubs.
- Recruit and lead groups in trail maintenance projects, such as cleaning up trails, building new trails, and closing off other trails for rehabilitation.
- Expand and coordinate a sustainable volunteer program for Giant Springs State Park to include, individual volunteers and groups. Recruit, train, track and encourage volunteers.
- Complete other AmeriCorps duties, as needed

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident alien
- Demonstrated leadership skills
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for the outdoors and enthusiasm for enhancing Montana's state parks
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana
- Must pass a national service criminal history check

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$12,100 over 44 week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,645 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans

- Guaranteed health benefits and child care assistance if qualified
- Experience and training working in the fields of outdoor recreation, parks management, interpretive services, education, community outreach, and volunteer management
- Opportunity to live, work and be part of the team amid the natural wonders and cultural heritage of Montana State Parks

* Volunteer activity facilitated by AmeriCorps members supports the management and operation of State Parks. These activities do not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

**Service activities will center around the preceding program goals as well as provide unique opportunities for members to engage in service to non-profit community organizations that provide support to those in need, including victims of national disasters, individuals and families in poverty, veterans, homeless animals, and other groups. Service projects will take place on and around designated National Days of Service as well as other AmeriCorps organized events, such as member trainings. Service activities will not include any prohibited or unallowable activities as outlined in AmeriCorps regulations.

The Montana State Parks AmeriCorps Program, as administered by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, shall provide equal access to opportunities provided by the Program and shall not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. The accommodation must be essential for the Member to perform his/her service successfully. Funds for reasonable accommodations are available for use by members with disabilities who have been offered a position with an AmeriCorps Program and require an accommodation to fulfill the essential functions of their service.

Applicant Certification

I certify that I have reviewed this Position Description and understand the general roles and responsibilities of this Montana State Parks AmeriCorps position

Member Name _____

Member Signature _____

Date

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